



Gas, Gas, Gas!
A-3



Dole
B-1



Cheer
C-1



Sgt. Scott Whittington

Marines from 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, stand at attention while the National Anthem plays during the Hawaii Medal of Honor ceremony March 25. Marines Lance Cpl. Ryan Lynch of 1/12 and Maj. Douglas Zembiec of Headquarters Battalion, Marine Corps National Capital Region, Henderson Hall in Arlington, Va., were awarded the medal for their service in Iraq. Both were killed in action in Iraq.

Hawaii honors its fallen military family members

Sgt. Scott Whittington

U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific

HONOLULU — Lance Cpl. Ryan Lynch had dreams of working in Hollywood as a writer, producer and director, and of marrying actress/singer Hilary Duff. Tragically, he was killed in action July 24, 2007, in Rushdidiyah, Iraq.

Lynch, a Louisville, Ky., native and formally an engineer-equipment mechanic with 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, was awarded the

Hawaii Medal of Honor at the state capitol building here along with 30 other service members who were killed in action in Iraq. To be eligible, a service member would have to have been a resident, attended a Hawaii school or been stationed in Hawaii. Angela Robinson, Lynch's mother, was flown in to accept the award for her son.

"It's such an honor, and I'm proud to know Hawaii recognizes these guys even if they're strangers," said Robinson, holding back tears. "They all volunteered to fight for us."

This is the third year Hawaii has award-

ed the medal to the fallen service members' families.

"We are truly grateful for the sacrifices that these families have made," said K. Mark Takai, Hawaii State Representative from the 34th District in a press release. "This medal is just a small token of our utmost appreciation of those service members who [made] the ultimate sacrifice. It tells these families that we also grieve for their loss," Takai added.

One of the medal's components, the

See HONOR, A-5

See SEEKING, A-5

Marine Corps' best kept secret uncovered

Lance Cpl. Brian A. Marion

Combat Correspondent

MANANA NEIGHBORHOOD, Hawaii — The Manana housing district in Pearl City opened 51 new homes to Marines and Sailors in a blessing ceremony here March 27.

The new homes are the first homes in the neighborhood with 117 more scheduled for completion throughout the year.

The new homes marked a milestone for Forest City Military Communities' partnership with the Department of the Navy in providing homes for Hawaii Marines. The community was constructed in 1959 as the Navy Capehart Housing Project and transferred to the Marine Corps later that year.

"We desperately needed to get new homes here," said Col. Cosmas Spofford, commanding officer, Headquarters and Service Battalion, Camp H.M. Smith. "The old homes were antiquated while these new homes are up to date. Plenty of peo-

ple worked hard to provide quality homes to Marines and Sailors that weren't previously available."

More than 100 Marines, Sailors and honored guests attended the blessing ceremony hosted by Forest City.

See SECRET, A-5



Photos by Lance Cpl. Brian A. Marion

Major Todd McMahan, rotary wing aviation officer, G-3, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific, Camp H.M. Smith, accepts the keys to his new house from Brig. Gen. Rex MacMillan, commanding general, Marine Corps Installations, Mid-Pacific during a Hawaiian blessing ceremony March 27.



Lance Cpl. Regina A. Ruisi

Members of the Marine Corps League Camp Tarawa Detachment, and active-duty service members training at the Pohakuloa Training Area, conduct the detachment's monthly meeting, March 15, at the Waikoloa Village community center. The detachment, one of two in the Hawaiian Islands, was formed Oct. 6, 2006, and has more than 50 members island-wide.

Camp Tarawa Detachment preserves Big Island history

Lance Cpl. Regina A. Ruisi

Combat Correspondent

Though their hair may be grayer, and their green covers have been replaced by red and gold, they salute the national colors with the same precision, the same pride as they did years ago.

Veterans with the Marine Corps League, Camp Tarawa Detachment, saluted as the color guard presented the colors in the community center of the Waikoloa Village, March 15, signifying the start of their monthly meeting. They stood proudly at attention, as they did years ago, and sang in unison the Marines Hymn.

In the masses of the meeting, four men in camouflage utilities saluted and sang along, sharing a moment of pride with the Marines and corpsmen who came before them, who set the stage for their careers in the Marine Corps and Navy.

The special guest introduced themselves, thanking the Leaguers for the opportunity to join in the meeting, and the officers conducted the meeting as they have once a month since their formation in October 2006.

Jim Browne, commandant of the detachment, was one of the detachment's founding fathers,

See LEAGUE, A-5

— NEWS BRIEFS —

HQMC MMPR/MMSB/CACO Visits

There will be several Headquarter Marine Corps briefs on the following dates, times and places. The target audience for the brief on Friday is E-5 through O6. All
Marines and Sailors are invited to attend the CACO brief's on April 14 and 15th. The Manpower sergeant major will give a brief Friday at 3 p.m. for the target audience of E8/E9 although all staff noncommissioned officers and officers are invited to attend.

HQMC MMPR/MMSB SCHEDULE

Friday, 9 – 11 a.m., Conference Room 3, 3rd deck, Bldg 1
Friday, 1 – 4 p.m., K-Bay Base Theater

CACO SCHEDULE

April 14, 7:30 – 11:30 a.m., K-Bay Base Theater
April 14, 1 – 5 p.m., K-Bay Base Theater
April 15, 7:30 – 11:30 a.m., K-Bay Base Theater

DCIPS Schedule

April 15, 1 – 4:30 p.m., K-Bay Joint Education Center

For more information, contact Staff Sgt. Carodine at 257-8862.

HPU Now Offering More Exams On-Site Through Pearson VUE

Service members here now have more options when it comes to taking a certification or licensure exam. Hawaii Pacific University has teamed up with Pearson VUE, to start delivering computer-based certification exams such as NREMT, AMT, PTCB, CompTIA, Cisco, and many others to service members.
The exam prices vary by exam, and eligible personnel have the opportunity to be reimbursed for approved license and certification tests under the Montgomery G.I. Bill.

For more information, visit <http://www.pearsonvue.com/militarycertify> or contact Dave Terry at 534-8056.

Important Phone Numbers:

On-Base Emergencies	911
Military Police	257-7114
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852
Business Management Hotline	257-3188
Pothole & Streetlight Repair	257-2380
Base Information	449-7110
MCBH Duty Chaplain	257-7700
DEERS	257-2077

Editor's Note:

In the March 14 edition of the *Hawaii Marine* we ran the incorrect caption for the lead photograph that accompanied the story “Island Warriors check projects in villages.” The caption should have read as such: “First Lt. Caleb Wells, platoon commander, Weapons Platoon, Company G, 2nd battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 1, agrees with a local Iraqi Security Forces official March 5 in Fallujah, Iraq. Wells, along with his Hawaii-based Marines, visited the Shohabi Village to negotiate contracts to ensure that rebuilding the village will go smoothly. The Island Warriors are currently serving a seven-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.”

Hawaii MARINE
www.mcbh.usmc.mil

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Chaplain’s Corner: Leadership



Navy Lt. John A. Carter
MCBH Chaplain

Recently, I read in the news how a powerful college president was forced to resign after a short tenure at the institution because he was hated by just about everyone who had to work with him. He readily admitted that he had an abrasive personal style, but he thought that as long as his actual performance was superior, everything would be fine. How wrong he was. His character undermined everything he tried

to do at the school, and in the end, he was fired; not because his job performance itself was unsatisfactory, but because his managerial style did more harm than good. Yet this is not an isolated case. You don’t have to look very far to find leaders with undeveloped character spoiling their effectiveness on the job.
Usually the problem is not evident in the outward numbers. In manufacturing, the same number of widgets may still be produced. In service, the same number of customers may be helped, but the problem becomes evident in the relationships.
It’s evident in how the leader manages people. It’s revealed by the morale problems in the shop that result from an abrasive management style that wounds followers.
Sometimes inadequate character shows when a superior manipulates his subordinates or deceives them. Relationships are fragmented and those interpersonal issues sap the strength

of the rest of the team.
While there’s certainly nothing wrong with ambition, immature leaders display the wrong kind of ambition. Their ambition is not for the success of the team, but it’s for themselves! They’re not focused on the here and now, but they’re looking down the road, trying to position themselves for the “bigger, better thing.”
Sometimes this character deficiency is revealed when leaders feel threatened by the success of their followers and view power as a means to dominate others. It should go without saying that these things should not be so.

The most effective leaders are those who highly value their team. Their subordinates recognize their contributions are significant and that they’re valued. People in that kind of environment are more apt to go the extra mile. Morale is likely to improve, and ultimately the leader is more effective.
Leaders with deficient char-

acter eventually cut themselves off at the knees. Steven Covey, the author of the bestseller “Seven Habits of Highly Effective People” put it this way: He writes, “Many people with secondary greatness – that is, social recognition for their talents – lack primary greatness or goodness in their character ... ” I like how he puts it there.
Secondary greatness involves your leadership position. Primary greatness involves the goodness of your character. The key to effective leadership is not privilege nor power, but mature character.
As ironic as it may seem, it involves a dose of compassion and modesty. Bottom line: the manner in which the leader treats his followers is critically important to how well those followers perform.
The effective leader cannot simply be results driven; he must also be concerned about the morale of his people. That’s a lesson that our college president friend learned the hard way.

Home, Sweet Home!
Choosing between living on or off base

Lance Cpl. Regina A. Ruisi
Combat Correspondent

One of the important questions a service member and their spouse have to consider is this: is it better to live on base or off base?
Marine Corps Base Hawaii has some beautiful new housing, including a whole slew of privatized housing, and with the benefits of living on base, the answer should be clear. On paper, it looks great. Safe area, close to work (save on money spent on gas), utilities are paid for, you don’t have to deal with questionable landlords, heck, you don’t even have to mow your front lawn. How could anyone debate it?

Service members and their families have to list the pros and cons, and come to a decision that’s best for their lifestyle. For dual-active duty couples, living off base gives them the chance to put away money they wouldn’t spend on housing, while living in base housing, their full basic allowance for housing will be taken. For Marines with dependents, living off base in Kaneohe or Kailua may get pricey, so living in base housing might be the right decision.
Living on base gives service members and their families close access to military benefits, like the low prices of the commissary and exchange, as well as an entire “mini city” complete with movie theater, skate park, sports fields and gyms. Marines and Sailors who live off base can still take advantage of these perks, but have to make their way down the H3 to use them.
The downside of base housing is the unpredictable wait list. Service members can wait anywhere from a month to a year for base housing, and privatized housing has priority groups that place sergeants in the first groups, staff noncommissioned officers

next, corporals then junior enlisted warriors last. The wait list for a lance corporal to get into 802 housing can be anywhere from eight months to a year!
While off-base housing has no wait, service members and their families may have to deal with issues like long drives to work (including traffic during rush hours) and problems with landlords or neighbors. Those who choose to live off base should carefully research the house, landlord and neighborhood before signing a lease. Take advantage of the legal office here and have the lease reviewed before signing it. Taking into con-



sideration the distance dependents will be from base during a service member’s deployment is also important, because the base

has a lot of programs for spouses of deployed Marines and Sailors families may not find out about without being on base.
For myself, I chose the benefits of living off base. While I may have to drive 10 minutes to get to work, I won’t be stressing about how long a wait is, and I’ll be living in a house I picked out myself. Being able to save money because of a dual-active duty marriage was also a contributing factor to my decision because, honestly, every little bit counts to a newly married couple. And personally, seeing the front gate in the rear-view mirror daily will be a nice break from work.

NAMs abound



Lance Cpl. Achilles Tsantarliotis

Colonel Mark A. Dungan, commanding officer, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, and Sgt. Maj. Erik H. Shirreffs, acting sergeant major, MCB Hawaii, present five Navy Achievement Medals to MCB Hawaii Marines during a ceremony March 27, at Anderson Hall Mess Hall. The recipients included Lance Cpl. Krister Clark, property clerk, mess hall; Sgt. Michael Diaz, training noncommissioned officer, mess hall; Sgt. Kentrell Allen, galley captain, mess hall; Staff Sgt. Richard Miner, Marine Corps Food Management Information System staff noncommissioned officer, mess hall; and Sgt. Jeffrey Caraway, productions chief, Combat Camera, Headquarters Battalion. Corporal Michael Parnapy, MCFMIS clerk, mess hall, received a NAM as well, but was not present at the ceremony.

Weekend weather outlook

Today



Day — Scattered showers. Partly cloudy, with a high near 76. North wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 23 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

Night — Partly cloudy, with a low around 70. Northeast wind around 10 mph.

High — 76

Low — 70

Saturday



Day — Mostly sunny, with a high near 77. East wind around 16 mph, with gusts as high as 21 mph.

Night — A 20 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 70. East wind around 18 mph, with gusts as high as 24 mph.

High — 77

Low — 70

Sunday



Day — Partly sunny, with a high near 78. Breezy, with a east wind around 20 mph, with gusts as high as 26 mph.

Night — A 20 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 72. Breezy, with a east wind around 20 mph, with gusts as high as 28 mph.

High — 78

Low — 72



Marines from Headquarters Battalion familiarize themselves with the components of the gas mask, including which ones are critical to filtering gas, and double checking for a tight seal, Tuesday, during the Mask Confidence Exercise.



A Marine regrets incorrectly using his mask, and feels the “nasal clearing” effects of the CS gas, Tuesday, during the Mask Confidence Exercise.

Gas, Gas, Gas!

Annual training contributes to all round combat readiness

Lance Cpl. Achilles Tsantarliotis
Combat Correspondent

While some people may dread it, others might enjoy it and a select few are completely paralyzed with fear at the notion of entering a hardly spacious, eerily lit, gas filled room.

And for those timid few, overcoming any anxiety or doubt is one of the reasons for the annually required Mask Confidence Exercise.

Marines from Headquarters Battalion were offered the opportunity Tuesday, to help reiterate and remind them, especially during a time of war; chemical, biological, nuclear and radiological warfare is a realistic scenario and that a continual state of combat readiness is one of the Marine Corps’ top priorities.

“We help build confidence that the mask will protect them,” said Cpl. Jeremiah Hendricks, CBRN chief, S-3, HQBN. “We remind them a [CBRN attack] is definitely a possibility. We also tell them what’s commonly being used right now, like chlorine in [vehicle born improvised explosive devices.]”

The Marines first complete a briefing on various CBRN attacks, effects, likeliness and whatever countermeasures might be able to be employed.

“Tyrants and military leaders in the past have used these types of

warfare,” Hendricks said. “So it’s important to help them feel safe and confident using their [precautionary] gear.”

After the briefing, they began focusing on correct employment of the mask and what to expect inside the gas chamber, and what not to do in the gas chamber.

“It’s important to try and hit on the warfare that will most likely be used,” said Sgt. William Patnode, CBRN chief, S-3, HQBN. “It also helps them from being bored and retaining what they’re taught – because it’s very real. The [gas chamber] is the only place they can practice correct use of their mask, and become comfortable. I could have them put it on outside but they wouldn’t take it seriously or wouldn’t realize leaks. With the CS gas, they know if they did something wrong. This way they build experience and it’s good to provide that to them.”

After demonstrating proper employment of the gas mask, the class tried it on, and familiarized themselves with the straps. They got a general idea of how tight it should be by pushing on the air release and blowing, testing the seal for when they remove the gas masks in the chamber, effectively breaking the seal, and putting it back on after clearing it of the gas, hopefully smoothly, without “sucking gas.”



The irritating gas ensures Marines are familiar with correctly operating their gas mask by seeping through poorly fastened masks, and lingering in weakly cleared air valves, indicating poor application. The CS gas uncomfortably simulates the inability to quickly wield their masks, and clear it, with a stinging, burning and sometimes manic inducing sensation.

During the first groups training in the chamber, the Marines stood at position of attention after some of their various aerobic exercises, not because of another strange command heard behind the muffled masks, but because a motivated corporal was

being promoted to sergeant during the training.

“It happened last minute,” said Sgt. Wesley Glover, range pit non-commissioned officer, HQBN. “It was pretty motivating though – getting promoted in the gas chamber. I start-

ed tearing up too, ‘cause I sneezed and the CS got all up in my eye.”

Tuesday marked another annual requirement for some of the Marines of HQBN, leaving one less requirement in an endless preparation of combat readiness.



Photos by Lance Cpl. Achilles Tsantarliotis

While some people eagerly anticipate exiting the chamber, some Marines, like newly promoted Sgt. Wesley Glover, pit noncommissioned officer, HQBN, prefer their promotion ceremony amidst the clouds of CS gas.



Marines, Sailors and volunteers at the West Hawaii Veterans’ Cemetery climb the cemetery’s hill, carrying shovels, plants and trees to be planted up the hillside March 16. The service members took a day out of their training at the Pohakuloa Training Area on the Big Island to help beautify the cemetery.

Photos by Lance Cpl. Regina A. Ruisi



Sergeant Anthony Nickum, artillery electronics maintenance chief, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, plants a shrub along the hillside of the West Hawaii Veterans’ Cemetery March 16. Nickum and his fellow Marine and Sailor volunteers planted 57 trees and plants, contributing to the cemetery’s reforestation project.

Service members beautify Big Island vets cemetery

Lance Cpl. Regina A. Ruisi
Combat Correspondent

POHAKULOA TRAINING AREA — More than 25 Marines and Sailors training at the Pohakuloa Training Area on the Big Island of Hawaii volunteered their Sunday to beautify the West Hawaii Veterans’ Cemetery March 16, contributing to the cemetery’s ongoing reforestation project.

The service members represented 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment and 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment.

Three van-loads of service members traveled down from PTA’s mountains, rolled up their sleeves, and planted trees and shrubs on the cemetery’s hillside, helping to contribute to what has been called the “Arlington of the Pacific.”

“We’re trying to do the same thing as Arlington, and it’s happening, and you are going to do your part as well, so thank you,” Dr. Richard Stevens, project coordinator and Vietnam-era Marine, said to the volunteering service members. “It’s pretty exciting to think we’re going to have all this muscle and energy to help make the cemetery green.”

The Marines and Sailors helped plant 57 trees on the cemetery grounds that had once been called a “dustbowl” for its lack of greenery.

“It was a disgrace as a place to lay our deceased veterans,” Stevens said. “It’s been transformed with the help of people like yourselves coming out here. It’s really something we feel is our calling to do. As military people, we know war and training are hard on the natural world. This is our way to pay it back.”

The service members worked hard in the Hawaii sun, carrying trees up a steep hillside and planting them in lava-rock strewn earth. They felt the pride in sharing the time with veterans of wars long past, as well as giving something to the families of former service members who would visit the cemetery.

“This is an opportunity for the Marines to interact with the local community and Marine Corps veterans and help honor the fallen comrades who are buried there,” said Cmdr. Kal McAlexander, regimental chaplain, 3rd Marine Regiment. “In a larger sense, it’s good for the Marines and Sailors to help bring the balance back to the ecology of the Island. They not only get an appreciation for the sacrifices of those who have gone before them and honor them, they have the opportunity to give back to the Island of Hawaii.”

After the work was done, the Marines and Sailors had the chance to speak with

Stevens, as well as members of the local chapter of the Marine Corps League, the Camp Tarawa Detachment, who were present for the event.

“A lot of veterans who were former Marines have gotten involved in the rescue, so having active duty Marines come out and help us is really appropriate and very special,” Stevens said.

After putting the plants into the ground, the Marines and Sailors had the opportunity to dedicate them to someone special, contributing to the cemetery’s “Forest of Loved Souls,” where former volunteers dedicated their plants to a fallen service member.

“I can guarantee your country loves you,” Stevens said to the volunteers, most of them veterans in their own right of operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. “You need to feel that in the marrow of your bones. Thank you for coming out here.”

The service members returned the praise, thanking Stevens and the Marine Corps Leaguers for their service to the country and the chance to be involved in a worthwhile project.

“It was an honor planting trees for the vets,” said Sgt. Michael Herzberger, assaultman, 1/3. “It’s always a pleasure to support a community that supported us.”

Propel to move forward



Sitting in the co-pilot's seat, Navy Lt. Bradley Gilberston, control plane commander, Patrol Squadron 4, shows visitors how to operate the controls of a P-3 Orion.



Photos by Christine Cabalo

Parked in front of Hangar 104, a P-3 Orion stands on display during a seminar Monday. Seminar visitors toured the plane and learned how the Navy plans to replace the Orion with a P-8A Poseidon jet as late as 2012. The Poseidon planes would require fewer personnel and fuel to maintain.



Lance Cpl. Brian A. Marion

Major Todd McMahan and his wife, talk to Neil Abercrombie, U.S. House of Representatives, in their new home after a Hawaiian blessing ceremony. The McMahan's home is one of the 51 new homes turned over to the Marine Corps from Forest City Military Communities.

SECRET, from A-1

“The real reward for us is events like today, and it’s happening every day,” said John Wallensworth, senior vice president, FCMC Hawaii. “This event is particularly fun for me because we’ve done this with the Navy, but today we finally get to do one of these with the Marine Corps.”

Each of the new homes cost about \$400,000 to build with most of the construction ahead of schedule.

“The contractors have done a really remarkable job,” said Jim Ramirez, vice president of construction, FCMC. “In the future, what we’re doing for the Marines is building around 1,300 homes within the next few years. At the moment, we

are on or ahead of schedule. It has to do with contractors. On this site we have Hunt Building Company, and they have done a real marvelous job.”

Each of the new homes already constructed are 40 percent more energy efficient than the old homes. Each two-story home has solar heated water, ceiling fans in each room, centralized air conditioning and other utilities, making them unique in their own way.

“This is truly a once in a lifetime event in the Marine Corps,” said Col. Mark Dungan, commanding officer, Marine Corps Base Hawaii. “It only happens about every 50 or 60 years in the Marine Corps. [The construction] has been a team effort, and I can tell you it’s a big difference between these homes

and the old ones. You kind of get desensitized to what was here before, but now, you can actually see the new homes from the H2, and they’re actually back on the map now. I appreciate all of the work [FCMC] has done.”

The homes speak for themselves as the presentation of the keys gave the first tenants, a look inside their new home.

“My wife and I love our new home,” said Maj. Todd McMahan, rotary wing aviation officer, G-3, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific, Camp H.M. Smith. “It’s beautiful, and we feel really blessed and fortunate to have the opportunity to come to Hawaii. We’ve been waiting to move into Manana housing since last summer, and it’s been worth the wait.”

LEAGUE, from A-1

who chose the name for its historical relevance to the Big Island.

“It was time there was a Marine Corps League detachment here,” Browne said. “We want to keep the history and tradition of Camp Tarawa alive.”

Camp Tarawa, where Marines from 2nd Marine Division trained for amphibious assaults in the Gilbert Islands and 5th Marine Division trained for the assault on Iwo Jima between 1943 and 1945, is just one of Hawaii’s significant military-related historical sights, and seemed, to Browne, a fitting name for the detachment.

“A lot of detachments are named after a Marine, and we’re a little different,” Browne said, with a smile. “History and tradition are the lifeblood of our Corps. History is quickly forgotten, and we’re keeping it alive. We’re the only detachment I know of that is history based and history driven.”

The detachment is one of two in the Hawaiian Islands,



Lance Cpl. Regina A. Ruisi

Sergeant Michael Herzberger, assaultman, 3rd Marine Regiment, Cpl. Benjamin Simmons, machine gunner, 3rd Marines, and Petty Officer 3rd Class Michael Rogers, corpsman, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines, listen to war stories from Korean war veteran Jim Browne, March 15. Browne, the commandant of the Marine Corps League Camp Tarawa Detachment, invited the Marines and Sailor, who were training at the Pohakuloa Training Area, to the detachment’s monthly meeting at the Waikoloa Village community center.

and has 51 members, both former Marines, corpsmen and chaplains, as well as family members. The former service members come from all generations of the Corps, representing every war from World War II, to Korea, Vietnam and even the first Iraq war.

The Marines do community service, like volunteering at local veteran’s cemeteries, planting gardens for wheelchair-bound vets and visiting service members training at the

Pokakuloa Training Area. The Marines are happy for the opportunity to show the support for the Marines training for Iraq and Afghanistan deployments at PTA, Browne said.

“We put together two visits a year to the base,” Browne said. “It’s easy to say you support the troops, but by going out there and seeing what’s going on, we personally get to support the troops.”

The Marines and corpsman attending the March 15 meet-

ing were met with open arms, swapping training and deployment experiences with the former Marines. The visitors heard stories from Marines who met Chesty Puller, stories from Marines who fought in places they had only read about in text books.

Today’s service members shared their own stories about the sands of Afghanistan and Iraq, and both generations learned there was very little difference between the generations of Marines.

“It was great to have Marines of the old generation and new generation telling stories,” said Cpl. Benjamin Simmons, machine gunner, 3rd Marine Regiment. “It blows your mind the way things haven’t really changed. The Marine Corps is such an old organization and to see the old and new see things the same way is awesome.”

The Marines and corpsman were grateful for the opportunity to spend the afternoon with the detachment members, relishing in the stories the former Marine could tell them, amazed at the history come to life before them.

SEEKING, from A-1

we’re not training them to the standard of running marathons.”

The supplementing civilian police officers will provide the base with a fully staffed department, and provide longevity to law enforcement so they can grow with the base, becoming part of the community in a sense, said Master Sgt. Patrick Torkelson, Operations Chief, MPD, MCBH.

Carr said the new police structure was designed to help retain civilian police officers, offering advancement and the opportunity for professional growth, no different than their military counterparts.

“Since the change to infuse civilians into the military police department,” Carr explained, “the new positions have been created so that the basic patrolman has something to aspire to and they don’t feel like they’ve entered another dead end job. The Provost Marshal billet will still be held by a Marine, but the job under the PM, the Deputy Chief of

Police, will be a civilian held billet, offering a high ranking position to better relate to the civilian employees, add balance to the department structure, and offer an avenue for advancement for our civilian police officers.”

The new academy for the civilian police is expected to begin in the first week of May, here at the Military Police Department, Carr said. The civilian police officers will be trained by five Marine Corps Civilian Police Academy curriculum certified instructors, ensuring that they are professionally trained officers and fully capable of conducting the law enforcement mission and upholding the base’s security.

Civilians or departing military service members interested in applying, or have any questions regarding the Marine Corps Civilian Law Enforcement program and the positions that will be available, can go to <http://www.usmccle.com> to learn more about the program, or call the Human Resources Office at 257-1377 or 257-2525.

Standards for MCBH civilian police

To be eligible, some standards and requirements apply. Here’s what it takes, regarding physical requirements, to be a part of MCB Hawaii’s civilian police.

Eligible applicants will undergo a five event physical fitness test to determine suitability for the aforementioned line of work, and unlike their military counterparts, the physical fitness test is a pass or fail test.

- ♦Crunches, to demonstrate balance and core abdominal muscular endurance. Applicants must complete a minimum of 25 correct crunches in under a minute to pass.
- ♦300 meter run, displaying agility, cardiovascular fitness, and the ability to potentially keep up with any suspects fleeing on foot. Cardiovascular health is important because it generally indicates a physically fit body.
- ♦Pushups, demonstrating upper body muscular endurance. Applicants will perform pushups with feet and palms shoulder width apart, and backs level. To pass, a minimum of 20 pushups correctly executed in two minutes or less is the requirement.
- ♦A 1.5-mile run, displaying endurance and aerobic fitness. Applicants must complete run in no more than 16:28 minutes.
- ♦25-foot dummy drag, an overall demonstration of core strength and capacity to perform defensive tactics training, and equally important for rescues and use of force situations. The dummy, approximately 150 pounds, must be dragged in a controlled manner for 25 feet.

To see the various benefits and competitive salaries offered by the Marine Corps visit <http://www.usmccle.com>.

HONOR, from A-1

taro leaves, represents Ohana, the Hawaiian word for family. This word was used more than a few times during the ceremony.

“This is Hawaii’s way to remember their sacrifice,” said Army Maj. Gen. Robert G.F. Lee, adjutant general, Hawaii National Guard. “They will always be a part of our Ohana.”

Robinson said her son’s body was returned to Louisville and was treated like a dignitary. More than 800 people attended the funeral and the procession was more than two miles long.

“Being a Marine meant everything to him,” said Robinson. “He always was saying, ‘life doesn’t go on unless you serve your country. It’s my duty. I’m doing it for you and my country.’”

One other Marine was recognized, but a representative from his family was not available to accept the honor. Maj. Douglas Zembiec, an Albuquerque, N.M., native and a 1995 Naval Academy graduate, died May 11, 2007 while conducting combat operations in Baghdad, Iraq. He was assigned to Headquarters Battalion, Marine Corps National Capital Region, Henderson Hall, Arlington, Va.

“We live under a blanket of freedom,” said Calvin Say, Speaker of the state House of Representatives. Say expressed sorrow he felt for the families’ losses but also how grateful he was for the service members’ sacrifices.

AROUND THE CORPS

Haditha hospital revampd, improved facilities available

Cpl. Shawn Coolman

1st Marine Division

HADITHA, Iraq — A celebration of smiles from corner to corner filled the radiology waiting room March 26 at the hospital in Haditha, Iraq.

The hospital, which was previously damaged by an insurgent explosion, held a ground-breaking ceremony to commemorate the new facilities that will be reconstructed.

“When we showed up to the hospital, it was functioning like a [U.S.] hospital in the ‘50s,” said Lt. Cmdr. Michael A. Wilson, assistant battalion surgeon, 3rd Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 5. “They couldn’t even do basic hygiene.”

“With improved security, [we] got funding to get this place fixed,” added Wilson.

Navy Capt. John H. Nadeau, battalion surgeon, 3rd Bn., 23rd Marine Regiment, oversaw the hospital’s improvement plan.

“When [3rd Bn., 23rd Marines] came here six months ago, [Lt. Col. Dave G.] Bellon, [commanding officer, 3rd Bn., 23rd Marines], insisted that we go see the medical team here,” said Nadeau, who is also a medical professor at Vanderbilt University. “Haditha was very fortunate because they had excellent doctors, but what Haditha needed were the tools for the doctors to do their jobs.”

A few tools that are being created at the hospital include a new administrative wing, more hospital beds, a new air conditioning system and a new surgery facility for the patients.

The reconstruction process isn’t complete yet, but the hospital’s future looks promising and it will be able to offer the people adequate medical care.

Nadeau is hopeful about the future of the area and what this facility is going to bring to the people now and in the future.

“[The hospital] means everything; everybody needs good medical care,” said Nadeau as he expressed his thoughts to a doctor at the hospital.

“Haditha is going to get the hospital it deserves when it’s done,” said Nadeau. “Where little girls like Amenah can get the care she needs without going to America.”

Amenah is a 2-year-old girl from Haditha who had a congenital heart defect that required surgery. The present hospital in Haditha was unable to perform the operation, so Amenah was flown to the U.S. where she had successful surgery and is now back in Haditha.

“This project, as well as any other, will have far reaching benefits to the people of Haditha in the future,” said Lt. Cmdr. James H. Lee, a civil engineer. “I can’t wait to get to work.”

As the ground-breaking ceremony came to a close,

Coalition forces and Iraqi leaders exchanged gratitude toward each other.

“I would like to thank everybody who helped rebuild and re-establish the hospital, and I am especially thankful for the Coalition forces,” said Dr. Walid Abd-Al-Khaliq, the hospital’s director.



Cpl. Shawn Coolman

Iraqi and Coalition force leadership, who worked extensively together to create plans for an improved hospital in Haditha, Iraq, start the hospital renovation with a heave of their shovels March 26. The hospital was previously damaged by an insurgent explosion. Once complete, the hospital will have a new administrative wing, more hospital beds, a new air conditioning system and a new surgery facility for the patients.

